Att. Docket No. REG 195-BZ
USSN: Not Yet Known
Filing Date: Filed Herewith
Preliminary Amendment

a2 38. (Amended) A polypeptide encoding the active portion of human agrin, for use in a method of treatment of the human or animal body by therapy or in a method of diagnosis.

Please replace Claim 47, starting on page 93, with the following:

a3 47. (Amended) Use of a polypeptide encoding the active portion of human agrin in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a disease or disorder affecting muscle.

Please replace Claim 50, starting on page 93, with the following:

50. (Amended) A method of treating a patient suffering from a disease or disorder affecting muscle comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of the nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the active portion of human agrin or a derivative thereof.

a4 Please replace Claim 51, starting on page 93, with the following:

51. (Amended) A nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the active portion of human agrin or a derivative thereof, for use in a method of treatment of the human or animal body by therapy or in a method of diagnosis.

Please replace Claim 53, starting on page 94, with the following:

53. (Amended) Use of a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the active portion of human agrin, or a derivative thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a disease or disorder affecting muscle.

a5 Please replace Claim 54, starting on page 94, with the following:

Att. Docket No. REG 195-BZ
USSN: Not Yet Known
Filing Date: Filed Herewith
Preliminary Amendment

a5 cont

54. (Amended) A composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the active portion of human agrin or a derivative thereof, and a carrier.

Please replace Claim 56, starting on page 94, with the following:

56. (Amended) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the active portion of human agrin wherein the nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to an expression control sequence.

a6 Please replace Claim 57, starting on page 94, with the following:

57. (Amended) A host-vector system for the production of a polypeptide having the biological activity of human agrin which comprises the vector of claim 56 in a suitable host cell.

Please add the following new claims:

(New) 64. A method of inducing AchR clustering on a muscle cell comprising contacting the muscle cell with the polypeptide encoding the active portion of human agrin or a derivative thereof.

(New) 65. The method of claim 64 wherein the muscle cell is in vitro.

a7 (New) 66. The method of claim 64 wherein the muscle cell is in vivo.

(New) 67. The method of claim 66 wherein the muscle cell is in an animal.

(New) 68. The method of claim 67 wherein the muscle cell is in a human.

(New) 69. A method of inducing phosphorylation of the MuSK receptor in a muscle

cell comprising contacting the muscle cell with the polypeptide encoding the active portion of human agrin, or a derivative thereof.

(New) 70. The method of claim 69 wherein the muscle cell is in vitro.

(New) 71. The method of claim 69 wherein the muscle cell is in vivo.

(New) 72. The method of claim 71 wherein the muscle cell is in an animal.

(New) 73. The method of claim 72 wherein the muscle cell is in a human.

(New) 74. A method of facilitating binding of Agrin, or a derivative thereof, to the MuSK receptor comprising contacting Agrin, or a derivative thereof, with the MuSK receptor under conditions in which Agrin, or a derivative thereof, is able to bind to the MuSK receptor.

(New) 75. The method of claim 74 wherein the derivative is the active C-terminal fragment (portion) of Agrin.

a7 cont

(New) 76. A method for targeting muscle cells in an animal comprising administering to the animal a composition which comprises a molecule capable of binding to the MuSK receptor and allowing the composition to bind to the MuSK receptor.

(New) 77. The method of claim 76 wherein the molecule capable of binding to the MuSK receptor is Agrin, or a derivative thereof.

(New) 78. The method of claim 76 wherein the derivative is the active C-terminal fragment (portion) of Agrin.

(New) 79. A method of modulating the activity of the MuSK receptor comprising

contacting a muscle cell with the polypeptide encoding the active portion of human agrin, or a derivative thereof.

(New) 80. A method of modulating the activity of the MuSK receptor comprising contacting a muscle cell with the polypeptide encoding the active portion of human agrin, or a derivative thereof.

(New) 81. The method of claim 79 wherein the muscle cell is in vitro.

a7 cont

(New) 82. The method of claim 79 wherein the muscle cell is in vivo.

(New) 83. The method of claim 82 wherein the muscle cell is in an animal.

(New) 84. The method of claim 83 wherein the muscle cell is in a human.--

Support for the new claims can be found throughout the specification and in particular at:

Page 18, lines 7-14
Page 18, lines 16-18
Page 18, lines 20-23
Page 38, lines 11-19
Page 39, lines 7-11
Page 63, lines 4-16
Page 79, lines 8-14
Page 83, line 1- Page 84, line 11
Figures 8-15
Brief Description of Figures 8-15
Examples 10-17, pages 63-86